<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

Please cancel claims 1-8 without prejudice or disclaimer.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (original)   A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for determining numerical scores suitable for use in ranking software product requirements, said method steps comprising:

evaluating supplier metrics for customer interest categories to provide numerical values for a software product requirement;

computing partial scores for the customer interest categories by weighting and summing the numerical values; and

determining an overall score for the software product requirement from the partial scores.

Claim 10 (original)   The program storage device of claim 9, wherein the customer interest categories are selected from the set consisting of capability, usability, performance, reliability, interoperability, maintainability, documentation, and serviceability.

Claim 11 (original)   The program storage device of claim 9, wherein the supplier metrics are selected from the set consisting of market penetration, priority as determined by a customer, revenue potential, and state of technology advancement.

Claim 12 (original)   The program storage device of claim 9, wherein the step of determining includes a step of averaging non-zero partial scores.

Claim 13 (original)   A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method

steps for determining numerical scores suitable for use in ranking software product requirements, said method steps comprising:

forming an N by M matrix A of numerical values of supplier metrics for customer interest categories of a software product requirement, where N is a number of supplier metrics and M is a number of customer interest categories;

multiplying the matrix A by an M by N matrix of numerical weights W, to form the M by M matrix P=WA, to provide partial scores; and

determining an overall score for the software product requirement from diagonal elements of the matrix P.

Claim 14 (original) The program storage device of claim 13, wherein the customer interest categories are selected from the set consisting of capability, usability, performance, reliability, interoperability, maintainability, documentation, and serviceability.

Claim 15 (original) The program storage device of claim 13, wherein the supplier metrics are selected from the set consisting of market penetration, priority as determined by a customer, revenue potential, and state of technology advancement.

Claim 16 (original) The program storage device of claim 13, wherein the step of determining includes a step of averaging non-zero diagonal elements of P.